

Upcoming Events

August 1, 2009

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Join our list

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I really appreciate everyone's help and involvement. The DCCV, like most volunteer organizations, reflects the changes inherent in a fluctuating volunteer base; past volunteers leave and new ones bring new ideas. I hope you all feel that you can approach any of the officers of the club with suggestions and ideas. In the past few months, we have begun the Legislative Watch Committee and are hoping to add a DCCV historian. These fantastic ideas came from members and readers like you.

Those of us who are busy with the nuts and bolts of the DCCV sometimes get wrapped up in the minutiae and miss good, common sense ideas.

Please keep those ideas coming.

The executive board has decided that we will mail a quarterly hardcopy of the newsletter out to those of you on our mailing list. We will, in addition, continue to send the newsletter electronically. The two lists are disparate. We have many more people on our email list than on our mailing list. In advance, I apologize to those of you who received two newsletters, however, on the bright side, you are on both lists. For those of you who received this e-mail but no physical hardcopy in the mail, this is to notify

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you that we don't have either mailing information or membership information for you for the past five years.

We intend to clean up our email lists to reflect more closely those persons who have demonstrated an interest in receiving the newsletter as well as an interest in participating in club events. Once the lists coincide, we won't have to duplicate our outreach efforts, but this might take some time.

So thank you for your involvement, your great ideas and your patience. And I hope to see you at some of the great events coming up in the next couple of months.

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The committee welcomes more energetic and passionate democrats to join. This is the ideal body for anyone who believes that to be a good citizen one must be an informed citizen.

Please contact the committee chair, Alidad Damooei at damooei@gmail.com if you have any question or would like to become a member.

Alidad Damooei

Single Payer Health Care for California and President Obama's National Health care Plan with Public Option

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SPHC is a plan that eliminates the insurance companies and uses the administrative cost savings to insure the uninsured. It has been called Medicare for all. SPHC is currently working its way through the California legislature in the form of Senate Bill 810 sponsored by Mark Leno. Senate Bill 810 is the successor bill to Senate Bill 840, which was sponsored by Sheila Kuehl. One way to learn more about SPHC is to visit the Healthcare For All website at www.healthcareforall.org. Healthcare For All has a very detailed strategy to pass SPHC in California with the expectation of an eventual state by state adoption.

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We are looking at two battles: 1) a long term battle for SPHC for California (and eventually the rest of the country) and 2) a battle now at the national level for Obama's health care reform. There is concern among some SPHC

supporters that a watered down national program may be so ineffective that even if passed the result will hurt the chance for success of SPHC. Both plans face uphill battles primarily due to the health care insurance industry's willingness and ability to spend vast sums in order to maintain status quo.

I suggest that Democrats do their own homework and decide which health care reform campaign they wish to support with their volunteer hours and pocketbooks. Supporters of both campaigns are recruiting volunteers at the club level to participate in phone banking and other outreach activities. This is similar to when we are asked to work for local and state level candidates versus national candidates. We need to make up our own minds on how our efforts can be most useful within the constraints of our time and resources. During 2008, I worked on the campaigns for Obama for President, my local school district bond/tax measures and for local candidates. There will be many issues and candidates to support in 2009, 2010 and beyond. I hope you will be active while remaining supportive and respectful of your fellow activists regardless of how they choose to support Democratic candidates and causes. Very critically, whenever possible, we should try to coordinate of efforts in these endeavors.

Jay Kapitz
Election Strategy Chair
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Tabling at The Oaks and Membership

Saturday, August 15
Saturday, September 19

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Membership for the club runs from January to January. Our membership drive will begin in earnest with the Garden Party in September. If you join or renew your membership at that time, it will cover the last months of 2009 as well as 2010. Your membership dues go a long way to keep the club running throughout the year and allow us to get great speakers, fine refreshments, election and registration materials as well as to keep up on our website and phone line. We depend on you. In fact, you are us. So renew. . .soon!

Mary Freed

DCCV Garden Party

Sunday, September 13

Please mark your calendars now for the DCCV Garden Party, which is scheduled for Sunday, September 13, from 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the Sunset Hills Country Club in Thousand Oaks.

This is our biggest annual fundraiser and we hope you all can attend. The event will include a sit down lunch, a silent auction and a special guest speaker.

Reservations are required prior to September 1. Prices are:

Individuals	\$55.00
Seniors and military	\$35.00
Students	\$25.00

If you make your reservations prior to August 31, you will receive a \$5.00 discount. Credit card reservations can be made at our website www.conejodemocrats.com or reservations by check can be sent to:

DCCV
P.O. Box 4421
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

If you are interested in helping collect silent auction donations, creating the baskets or decorating, please contact Debbie Birenbaum 498-7151 or Carol Keavney at 498-7262.

Eye on the Issues Programming to Air

August is hot and our topic -Healthcare Reform - is hotter! Our guests will be Single Payer advocate Penny Strowger, Dr. Susie Baldwin and Maureen Cruise. Our host will be radio personality and blogger, David Atkins. The show is produced by the Democratic Media Committee of the DCCV and airs on Time Warner Cable Channel 24 from 6 -7 p.m.

-- Sue Gunther

VIEWPOINT

Single-Payer Healthcare

Many people have asked me, since I am a single-payer advocate, if I support Obama's universal healthcare plan. Under the "public plan," insurance companies would be paid to furnish healthcare coverage. Right now, about 30% of each premium dollar paid to insurance companies goes toward administrative expenses, such as salaries, marketing, etc.

Under Medicare, which is a single-payer plan, administrative expenses cost

only about 3%. Single payer is NOT socialized medicine, as individuals would be free to choose their own doctors. The amount of money that we in the U.S. spend on healthcare already exceeds what it would take to cover all residents under a reasonable single-payer plan. This is true of the pending bills for both federal (HR 676) and state (SB 810, formerly 840) legislation.

Obama healthcare meetings, hearings and the summit have seldom allowed single-payer leaders to participate. For years, big insurance and big pharmaceutical companies have made large contributions to elected officials, so they are inclined to listen to their point of view. Please encourage everyone you know to learn more about and to support single-payer plans, to advocate for them, and to ensure that, if the "public option" is not single-payer, states will continue to be allowed to implement their own healthcare plans.

For further information: <http://www.healthcareforall.org/> and click at the top of the left side of the home page to join HCA-California - any donation is gratefully accepted.

Although Canada has socialized medicine, in which the doctors are part of the government system, unlike the single-payer plans proposed for the U.S., I think the following, which I received recently from an HCA member, is interesting: "I have spoken to about 20 Canadians during my visits to Canada. I have asked them 2 questions. Are you satisfied with the Canadian healthcare system? The answers were either satisfied or very satisfied. Would you trade your Canadian healthcare for U.S. healthcare. The answer was a resounding NO!!! We need to get out the truth about how Canadians feel about their healthcare. Many U.S. citizens believe the lies being told by the lobbyists who want to maintain the status quo."

-- Penny Strowger

Sincerely,

Debbie Birenbaum

President

Democratic Club of the Conejo Valley

PO Box 4421

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805-675-8785

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